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FIRST NAMED INVENTOR		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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000210 MERCK AND CO INC P O BOX 2000 RAHWAY NJ 07065-0907

**FILING DATE** 

05/19/98

APPLICATION NO.

09/081,737

HM22/0928

TUNG, P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED:

09/28/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks** 

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-9 and 16-19 are pending.

## Response to Amendment

2. The declaration filed on 7/2/99 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Boss et al. reference.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-9 and 16-19 are allowable over the prior art of record. The prior art does not teach or suggest the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11, a DNA encoding the protein of SEQ ID NO: 12, vectors and host cells comprising said DNAs, or methods of making said protein.

#### Conclusion

- 4. All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.
- 5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Tung, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-9436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-3804. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

PONNATHAPU ACHUTAMURTHY SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600